



# USAID FOOD ASSISTANCE

Striving for a world free of hunger and poverty, where all people live in dignity, peace and security.

## MISSION

USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) works with others to reduce hunger and malnutrition and assure that adequate, safe and nutritious food is available, accessible to and well utilized by all individuals at all times to support healthy and productive lives. FFP is committed to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and USAID's mission.

Expressing the compassion and goodwill of the people of the United States, FFP has been mobilizing America's resources to predict, prevent and respond to hunger overseas for more than 60 years – bringing help and hope to more than four billion people cumulatively.

FFP works in both emergency and development contexts, making it unique in USAID. Over the past decade, the number and diversity of emergencies that FFP responds to has increased, including recent crises like hurricanes in the Caribbean, drought in Ethiopia, Burmese refugees in Bangladesh, and the complex and prolonged conflicts in Syria and Yemen. Through its emergency programs, FFP provides food assistance to save lives, reduce suffering and support the early recovery of populations affected by both acute and chronic emergencies.

However, FFP recognizes that repeatedly responding to emergencies will not end hunger and increase long term food security. FFP also addresses the root causes of food insecurity and helps individuals and communities withstand future crises and lay the foundation for stable, inclusive growth. FFP development activities help chronically food insecure populations reduce their long-term need for food assistance by helping communities improve access to food for their most vulnerable people, especially women and children.

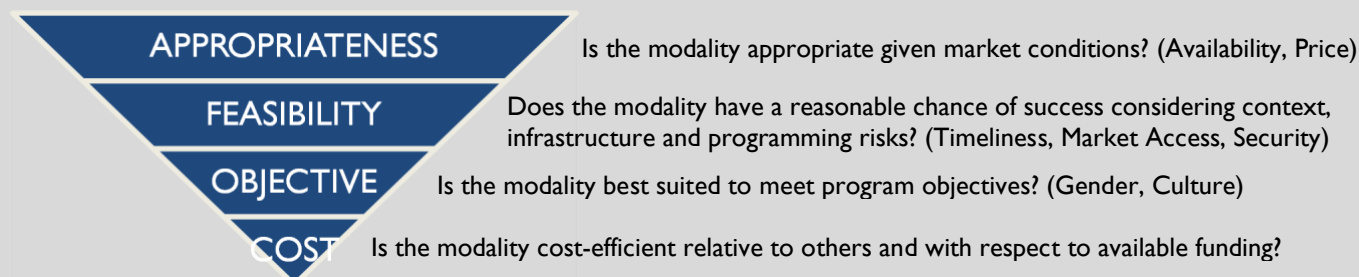
## HISTORY

The U.S. Government is the largest donor of food assistance in the world, with a budget of more than \$2 billion annually. Between 2011 and 2017, FFP programs have reached an average of 56 million people in 54 countries each year. These achievements are possible because of several authorities and funding accounts:

- Congress authorizes the majority of Food for Peace resources through **Title II** of the Food for Peace Act, a part of the Farm Bill. These funds are primarily intended to buy and transport U.S. in-kind commodities for use in FFP's overseas programs.
- Recognizing the need to be more efficient and effective given the increasing need for food assistance, Under **Section 202(e)** of the Food for Peace Act, FFP has the ability to “enhance” Title II programs. This enables FFP to fund development activities, rather than monetize<sup>1</sup>, and use market-based food assistance including local and regional procurement of food, cash transfers and food vouchers in both emergency and development settings.
- FFP also receives emergency resources through the **International Disaster Assistance (IDA)** account, authorized in the Foreign Assistance Act. FFP receives IDA resources for market-based food assistance and complementary programming. The 2016 Global Food Security Act codified this funding, known as FFP's Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP).
- FFP also receives **Community Development Funds**, which are Development Assistance funds from USAID's Bureau for Food Security (BFS). Provided under the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future, these funds reduce FFP's reliance on monetization and are programmed jointly with BFS to support FFP programming in Feed the Future and resilience-focused countries.
- Today, FFP's in-kind and market-based activities comprise an increasingly diverse and flexible toolkit to combat hunger and malnutrition overseas. Activities also have resources like the data-driven Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), an improved in-kind food aid basket, and a modern supply-chain management system ensuring the rapid movement of commodities. The challenges of global hunger are evolving, so U.S. Government food assistance is evolving to meet them.

### HOW DOES USAID DECIDE WHAT FOOD ASSISTANCE MODALITY TO CHOOSE?

There is no one “right” food modality to help hungry people. When Food for Peace chooses how it helps those in need, it looks at several criteria including:



<sup>1</sup> Monetization is the sale of U.S. food commodities overseas in order to generate money to conduct development activities.



MORGANA WINGARD/ USAID

## FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Food for Peace works in both emergency and development environments. Emergency and recovery activities comprise more than 80 percent of total spending, and the remainder supports chronically food insecure populations through development activities.

### EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

FFP responds to emergencies when people need food assistance, but local authorities do not have the capacity to adequately respond. A determination that a crisis requires food assistance occurs through a UN Emergency appeal, a U.S. Embassy disaster declaration or verification through government sources, cluster meetings, or another assessment of food needs. Then FFP provides resources to the UN World Food Program and/or non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

#### FOOD AID vs. FOOD ASSISTANCE

**Food Aid** refers to in-kind food transfers, whether used directly or monetized.

**Food Assistance** is a broader term that refers to both in-kind food transfers (i.e. food aid) as well as cash-based programs including cash transfers and food vouchers.

### DEVELOPMENT FOOD ASSISTANCE

FFP multi-year development activities reduce food insecurity among vulnerable populations and help build resilience in communities facing chronic poverty and recurrent crises such as drought. Through a multi-sectoral approach, FFP tackles food insecurity by supporting agriculture interventions, income diversification, preventive approaches to malnutrition and disaster risk reduction, among other activities.

### TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

Due to the complexity of food insecurity, food assistance occurs in a variety of ways for different purposes (see graphic). General food distributions often focus on ensuring sufficient calories are available, while targeted or supplementary food distributions ensure nutritious foods are available, especially for pregnant and lactating women and children, to prevent and treat malnutrition. Even in emergency settings, food may be provided in exchange for participation in activities that address root causes of hunger. These programs are sometimes referred to as “conditional” activities because recipients are given food or money on the condition that they participate in a training (e.g. hygiene practices), activity (e.g. children attend school), labor for community public works, or other activities.

# Types of USAID Food Assistance Interventions



## Complement- entary Activities



\* Cash or vouchers may be substituted for food